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Birch Society Hurts Itself

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Members of the John Birch Society — and there's a considerable number in this area—are as a rule men and women of probity and good purpose.

Many of them have been notably successful in their businesses and professions. In a broad sense they are among our best citizens—eager to do what they should, willing to exert energy and expend money in the promotion of that which they deem worth while.

They are among the most loyal of all Americans, cherishing deeply the principles embodied in this nation's format. They appreciate the virtue of our freedoms and recognize the fact that their preservation requires constant vigilance and upon occasion militant defense.

In joining and supporting the Birch Society, they are motivated by the good Americanism that has been through the years a vital part of their lives.

They seek to promote the laudable stated goals of the Birch organization. These are, as officially summarized, less government, more individual responsibility, a better world and the "stopping and routing of the international Communist conspiracy."

COMMUNISTS ARE HELPED

But—and this is a sad and unhappy reflection upon their activity — they are playing into the hands of the Communists.

They are among the best friends, unwittingly, of the Communist organization. In truth the Communists could well afford to finance the Birchers.

The reason for this is that the Birchers have accepted a leadership and a program so absurdly radical that they are defeating their own purposes. In tolerating the abusive condemnation of many fine American spokesmen, they promoted a destructive distrust of constructive and useful national institutions.

Because so many Birchers are substantial citizens, their words have carried much weight and they have tended to blunt the swords of impressive leaders in the practical struggle to maintain Americanism.

WHAT RECORDS SHOW

It may be said — and it will be said — that this criticism of the Birch Society is without validity and that the facts are being tortured.

continues as its leader. He is the man who insinuated that President Eisenhower was a tool of the Communists and that his brother, Milton, was his superior in this group. He said that Allen Dulles, head of the CIA, aided the Communists. He made the same charge in respect to John Foster Dulles while he was secretary of state. And there's much more of the same.

Still tolerated as a member of the Birch Society's top advisory council of 30 men is Dr. Revilo P. Oliver of the University of Illinois. It was Oliver who charged that President Kennedy was assassinated because he wasn't proceeding as rapidly as the Communists felt he should in turning the United States over to them.

That comment by Oliver was printed in the American Opinion, an organ of the Birch Society.

ABOUT VIET NAM

Much more could be said based upon comments of Welch and those appearing in American Opinion.

Let me cite just one, the following allusion in American Opinion to Viet Nam. "As for Viet Nam, one thing is certain: no action really detrimental to the Communists is conceivable or even possible so long as Rusk, McNamara and Katzenbach remain in power."

WHAT BIRCHERS COULD DO

All of this is profoundly distressing because the country so sorely needs a unity of force in the battle against not only the Communists abroad but against the encroaching tide of Marxism in this country.

Yet a group that could be powerful is virtually in effect on the other side because it is following so naively the implorings of men such as Welch and Oliver.

This is written not so much in criticism as in sorrow—sorrow because so much energy and spirit are being dissipated.

The rank and file of the Birchers could be a powerful force in the struggle against subversive elements here and abroad today.

And it isn't too late for a reconstruction—for a revision of the Birch leadership on a solid and a sensible basis. Let the Birchers reflect and realize that it is they, not everybody else, who are